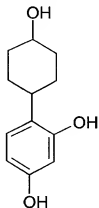


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A topical pharmaceutical composition for lightening skin or reducing the pigmentation of skin in a human, comprising an amount of a compound of formula I



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which amount is effective in lightening skin or reducing the pigmentation of skin, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a sunscreen.

3. The composition of claim 1, further comprising resveratrol or another active agent that is an anti-oxidant.

4. The composition of claim 1, further comprising retinoic acid, a derivative of retinoic acid, or any compound that interacts with retinoic acid receptors and accelerates or enhances the composition's ability to reduce skin melanin and skin bleaching action.

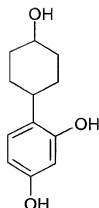
5. The composition of claim 1, further comprising glycolic acid, trichloroacetic acid or another skin peeling agent.

6. The composition of claim 1, which is in the form of a water-alcohol solution, an oil-in-water emulsion, a water-in-oil emulsion, an emulsified gel, or a two-phase system.

7. The composition of claim 1, which is in the form of a lotion, cream, milk, gel, jelly, paste, ointment, salve, mask, microspheres, nanospheres, or a vesicular dispersion.

8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the skin-lightening or pigmentation-reducing amount of the compound of formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is an amount effective to inhibit tyrosinase.

9. A method of lightening skin or reducing the pigmentation of skin in a human, comprising administering to said human an amount of a compound of formula I



I

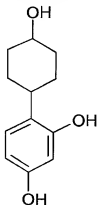
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which amount is effective in lightening skin or reducing the pigmentation of skin.

10. The method of claim 9, in which the compound of formula I or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is formulated in a water-alcohol solution, an oil-in-water emulsion, a water-in-oil emulsion, an emulsified gel, or a two-phase system.

11. The method of claim 9, in which the compound of formula I or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is formulated in a lotion, cream, milk, gel, jelly, paste, ointment, salve, mask, microspheres, nanospheres, or a vesicular dispersion.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the skin-lightening or pigmentation-reducing amount of the compound of formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is an amount effective to inhibit tyrosinase.

13. A method of inhibiting tyrosinase in a human, comprising administering to said human a tyrosinase-inhibiting effective amount of a compound of formula I



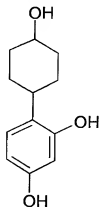
I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. The method of claim 13, in which the compound of formula I or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is formulated in a water-alcohol solution, an oil-in-water emulsion, a water-in-oil emulsion, an emulsified gel, or a two-phase system.

15. The method of claim 13, in which the compound of formula I or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is formulated in a lotion, cream, milk, gel, jelly, paste, ointment, salve, mask, microspheres, nanospheres, or a vesicular dispersion.

16. A method of treating an inflammatory disorder or dandruff in a human,
5 comprising administering to said human an amount of a compound of formula I



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which amount is effective in treating such disorder.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the inflammatory disorder is psoriasis,
10 dermatitis or acne.